

Household - cont.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:19-22, esp. v. 19).

- *A Duty to Provide*

As individual Christians, we should do good to everyone, while recognizing that we have special obligations to those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10).

- *A Duty to Protect*

Like the apostle Paul, we should also protect the church from the influence of error and false teachers (2 Cor. 11:1-6). Jesus loves the church as a husband loves his wife, and seeks her protection, preservation, and purity (Eph. 5:25-33).

Conclusion

Are you part of God's household? If you are not yet a Christian, you need to obey the gospel. If you are part of God's family, are you seeking to build up the body and bride of Christ?

Sources

Household - cont.

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- Mark Mayberry -

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

You Are God's Household (Guest Article)

The Greek word οἰκεῖος is used in the New Testament to communicate the concept of a household. Occurring three times in the New Testament, the Greek word οἰκεῖος refers to that which is “in or of the house” (Thomas, 3609b).

Bauer defines it as “literally, ‘belonging to the house;’ in our literature only substantially (i.e., as a noun) to identify ”persons who are related by kinship or circumstances and form a closely knit group, members of a household. Specifically, it is used “(a) with a focus on normal familial connections or association in common cause, i.e., of all the members of a household... used of blood relatives... and members of one’s family... (b) with focus on association in common cause or belief... (used of) ”members of God’s household“ (Eph. 2:19) and ”those who belong to the household of faith“ (Gal. 6:10).”

Louw and Nida say it identifies “one who belongs to a particular household or extended family—’member of a family, relative” (10.11; page 112).

Providing For Our Physical Household

- *Physical Provision*

Disciples of Christ must provide for the physical needs of their own household (1 Tim. 5:3–8, esp. v. 8).

Honor widows who are widows indeed; but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim. 5:3–8).

- *Spiritual Provision*

In both the Old and New Testaments, fathers are obligated to be spiritual leaders in their family (Deut. 6:4–9; Eph. 6:4).

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deut. 6:4–9).

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and in-

struction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Saving Our Household

Noah was able to save his household from the divine destruction poured out on the antediluvian world because he lived a blameless and righteous life and was obedient to God (Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:8–10, 22).

From the example of Cornelius, we learn that living a good life is not enough; we need the salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:1–6). Responding to the divine vision and Cornelius’s invitation, Peter came to Caesarea and found Cornelius was waiting for them with his relatives and close friends (Acts 10:23–24).

Cornelius explains his motivation for summoning Peter: “Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord” (Acts 10:30–33). The example of the Philippian jailer also teaches that there is hope, even if a man has lived apart from God, he and his family may be saved if they collectively turn to the Lord (Acts 16:25–34, esp. v. 31).

Providing for Our Spiritual Household

Regardless of our varied backgrounds, the saved are part of God’s spiritual household (Eph. 2:19–22, esp. v. 19).